

## Message Text

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41 53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 AID-20 ACDA-19 OMB-01 ORM-03 SR-02 DRC-01 /169 W

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P R 021150Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5624

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

ZN/AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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DIA WASHDC

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CGUSARSUPTHAI  
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COMNAVINTCOM  
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COMUSMACTHAI  
7/13 AF  
7TH PSYOPS  
COMUSSAG  
III MAF  
CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 4811

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB  
SUBJECT: KHMER REPORT - APRIL 2, 1974

GENERAL

1. LON NOL MOVED THIS WEEK TO STRENGTHEN THE TOP POLICY LEVELS OF HIS GOVERNMENT BY REPLACING THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL WITH A NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. FORMER CHIEF OF STATE CHENG HENG WAS AS A RESULT DROPPED FROM THE POWER STRUCTURE, SIRIK MATAK WAS PROMOTED TO "HIGH ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT" AND PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ WERE ADDED TO THE GKR'S HIGHEST EXECUTIVE CIRCLE. ALTHOUGH CHENG HENG HAS REFUSED TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL SCENE QUIETLY AND PERSUADE THREE OF HIS PARTISANS TO SUBMIT THEIR RESIGNATIONS FROM THE CABINET, THE DEMISE OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL SEEMS UNLIKELY TO CREATE SERIOUS POLITICAL TURBULENCE. WHILE HIS TROOPS OVERRAN THE ISOLATED GARRISON AT THE FORMER ROYAL CAPITAL OF OUDONG AND CONTINUED TO THREATEN THE COAST CITY OF KAMPOT, THE KC COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF KHIEU SAMPHAN JOURNEYED TO HANOI FOR HIS /FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT." THE DRV'S LAVISH DISPLAY OF CROWDS AND COMRADELY RHETORIC MARKEDLY EXCEEDED ITS RECENT WELCOME TO SIHANOUK, WHO IS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOW SHARING THE STAGE WITH KHIEU SAMPHAN DURING THE LATTER'S PEKING VISIT.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. PRESIDENT LON NOL ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 31 THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL, THE NATION'S TOP POLICY-MAKING ORGANIZATION. LON NOL EXPLAINED THAT THE TERMINA-

TION OF THE GRANT OF SPECIAL POWERS TO THE PRESIDENT SOME THREE MONTHS AGO AND PARLIAMENT'S RESUMPTION OF ITS NORMAL DUTIES OBVIATES THE NEED FOR THE COUNCIL, WHICH SINCE FORMER PRIME MINISTER IN TAM'S RESIGNATION LATE LAST YEAR HAS CONSISTED OF ONLY THE PRESIDENT, FORMER CHIEF OF STATE CHENG HENG AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER SIRIK MATAK. IN FACT, THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL WAS DISSOLVED IN ORDER TO MAKE WAY FOR A NEW "EXECUTIVE COUNCIL," WHICH AS ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 2 INCLUDES CHENG HENG, PROMOTES SIRIK MATAK AND ADDS PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET AND FANK COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ. THE NEW COUNCIL WILL MEET ONE A WEEK ON AN AGENDA PREPARED BY SIRIK MATAK, WHO WAS CONCURRENTLY NAMED "HIGH ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT." COMMENT: THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SHOULD BE A DECIDED IMPROVEMENT OVER THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL WHICH HAD FALLEN INTO DISUSE IN GOOD PART BECAUSE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS' BELIEF THAT CHENG HENG WAS ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER SON SANN'S APPEAL FOR THE MARSHAL'S OUSTER.

3. CHENG HENG HAS THUS FAR REFUSED TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL SCENE QUIETLY. JUST PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE POLITICAL COUNCIL'S DISSOLUTION, HE CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE TO EXPRESS HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH A MOVE WHICH HE SAID WOULD HURT THE NATION EXTERNALLY AND INTERNALLY. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION OF THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE, HEALTH AND INDUSTRY, WHO WERE HIS NOMINEES TO THE CABINET. BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO REMAIN IN THE CABINET. COMMENT: CHENG HENG DOES NOT HAVE THE PERSONAL STATURE OR FOLLOWING TO CAUSE SERIOUS POLITICAL TURBULENCE. THE DEPARTURE OF THE MINISTERS OF JUSTICE, HEALTH AND INDUSTRY, WHO HAVE NEITHER TALENT NOR CLOUT, WOULD COST THE GOVERNMENT LITTLE IN TERMS OF POLITICAL BASE AND MIGHT RESULT IN THE OVERALL STRENGTHENING OF THE CABINET.

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POLITICAL (EMTERNAL)

4. AMBASSADOR JOHN GUNTHER DEAN ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH MARCH 31 AND WILL PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS ON APRIL 3.

5. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF WAR UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED A REPORT OF ITS CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING ACCEPTANCE OF THE CREDENTIALS OF ALL STATES ATTENDING, INCLUDING THE GKR. (SEE MARCH 19, 1974 KHMER REPORT.) A SOMEWHAT MORE OMINOUS SITUATION APPEARS TO BE DEVELOPING IN COLOMBO AT THE 30TH SESSION OF ECAFE, HOWEVER, WHERE THE PRC HAS RAISED THE REPRESENTATION ISSUE CONCERNING THE GKR (AS WELL AS THE GVN AND ROK) AND APPARENTLY INTENDS TO PRESS IT. THERE ARE ALSO SOME INDICATIONS THAT SEVERAL OF THE FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS ON

THE ECAFE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ARE WAVERING IN THEIR SUPPORT.

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P R 021150Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5625

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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III MAF  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 4811

6. WITH THE CLOSURE OF GKR EMBASSY IN PRAGUE, THE CHARGE IS TO LEAVE FOR PARIS EARLY IN APRIL. ANOTHER OFFICER WILL STAY BEHIND FOR A FEW WEEKS TAKING CARE OF RESIDUAL HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS. GKR OFFICIALS IN WARSAW, HOWEVER, DO NOT SEE THIS AS NECESSARILY A BAD OMEN FOR THEM, COMMENTING THAT RELATIONS WITH THE POLISH FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE GOOD.

7. GKR FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM'S TRIP TO JAKARTA, WHICH INCLUDED AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO AND CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. LIM RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF CONTINUING INDO-NESEAN MORAL SUPPORT AT UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, SOME ADVICE ON HOW TO BETTER PLEAD THE GKR CASE IN THE THIRD WORLD, AND THE NEWS THAT GOI WILL SOON APPOINT A FULL-TIME AMBASSADOR TO PHNOM PENH (THE CURRENT ONE SERVES AS HEAD OF THE INDONESIAN ICCS CONTINGENT IN VIETNAM). IN SINGAPORE, HIS NEXT STOP, THE GKR FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVED CONSIDERABLY MORE FORTHCOMING TREATMENT THAN HIS PREDECESSORS, BUT THE GOS MAINTAINED ITS SOMEWHAT AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GKR.

GRUNK/FUNK

8. A FRUNK/FUNK /DELEGATION FROM THE INTERIOR" HEADED BY CPLAF C-IN-C AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KHIEU SAMPHAN PAID A WIDELY HERALDED "FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT" TOHANOI FROM  
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MARCH 28-APRIL 1. THE DELEGATION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDED IENG SARY, IDENTIFIED AS "SPECIAL ADVISOR" TO KHIEU SAMPHAN, MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH KHIEU THIRITH (MRS. IENG SARY), AND VICE-MINISTER OF PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION TIV OL, WAS GIVEN A RECEPTION IN HANOI, WHICH IN PROTOCOL TERMS AT LEAST EQUALLED AND IN PUBLIC WARMTH CLEARLY EXCEEDED THAT RECENTLY GIVEN SIHANOUK. THE SPEECHES BY GUESTS AND HOSTS AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT APPEAR TO CONTAIN NO SURPRISES OR NEW DEPARTURES. KHIEU SAMPHAN REPEATED AT EVERY POSSIBLE OCCASION THE CHARGE THAT "AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS" WILL SOON BE INCREASED FROM 3,500 TO 10,000 AND VOWED TO CONTINUE THE "STRUGGLE" TO REALIZE THE FIVE POINTS AS LONG AS THE U.S. PURSUES "KHMERIZATION OF THE WAR IN CAMBODIA". BOTH SIDES REFERRED OCCASIONALLY TO "TOTAL VICTORY" BUT ONLY ONCE (IN A PRESS CONFERENCE) DID KHIEU SAMPHAN PREDICT THAT THIS GOAL WILL BE OBTAINED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN SPEECHES AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE PLEDGED "RESOLUTE SUPPORT" FOR THE GRUNK'S DETERMINATION TO WIN TOTAL VICTORY BUT SPOKE OF ASSISTANCE IN THE MOST IMPRECISE TERMS. SIHANOUK'S NAME WAS MENTIONED ONLY IN PASSING AND THEN WITHOUT THE AFFECTIONATE ADJECTIVES AFFIXED TO THOSE OF THE "INTERIOR" VISITORS.

9. FOLLOWING THE HANOI VISIT, THE DELEGATION MOVED ON TO PEKING, WHERE THEY WERE MET BY CHOU-EN-LAI, SIHANOUK AND PRIME MINISTER PENN NOUTH. CHOU-EN-LAI IN AN APRIL 1 BANQUET TOAST PROMISED THE "ALL OUT SUPPORT" OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE TO THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE, AND POINTED OUT THAT, DESPITE THE "HEARTENING" SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, THE "FIGHTING TASKS" FOR ALL THREE PEOPLES THERE ARE "ARDUOUS". KHIEU SAMPHAN, DECLARING THAT THE DELEGATION CAME FROM THE "HOTTEST FIELD OF BATTLE IN THE WORLD", REPEATED HIS DIATRIBES AGAINST U.S. "KHMERIZATION" OF THE WAR AND STRESSED THE NEED OF SMALL COUNTRIES SUCH AS CAMBODIA FOR THE KING OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP ALLEGEDLY PROFFERED BY THE PRC. THE VISIT WAS STILL IN PROGRESS AT THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD AND SIHANOUK HAD YET TO BE HEARD FROM.

10. ALTHOUGH THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE ASIAN TABLE  
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TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN YOKOHAMA IS REPORTEDLY WILLING TO FLY A SPECIAL PLANE TO PEKING TO PICK UP A GRUNK "DELEGATION" TO THE TOURNAMENT; THE GRUNK'S "TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION", CALLING ITSELF CAMBODIA'S SOLE REPRESENTATIVE ON TABLE TENNIS MATTERS, HAS THUS FAR REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE.

1. THE DEPARTURE OF CHANG ENDELS WAS HAILED BY GRUNK RADIO

AS "ANOTHER GLARING PROOF OF THE STINGING DEFEAT" FOR THE U.S. IN CAMBODIA SINCE THIS "CIA CHIEFTAIN" HAD BEEN GIVEN "EX-CLUSIVE, UNLIMITED POWER" TO CONDUCT THE WAR.

12. STUNG BY REPORTS THAT NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE ADVISING KC TROOPS AND THAT THE NVA FIRST DIVISION HAS BEEN IN ACTION AROUND KAMPOT, THE RADIO VEHEMENTLY DENIED THESE "SLANDERS", AND CLAIMED THAT FUNK IS WAGING ITS "LINE OF PEOPLES WAR...WITHOUT DEPENDENCE TO ANY COUNTRY". THE DENIAL, AND THE ACCOMPANYING VIOLENT CRITICISMS OF THE U.S., WERE REPEATED BY HANOI AND PEKING MEDIA. IN OTHER BROADCASTS, THE RADIO HARPED ON "TRIUMPHS" IN OUDONG AND KAMPOT, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY BEGAN A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO BLAME THE GKR FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGES TO BUDDHIST FACILITIES THROUGHOUT CAMBODIA.

ECONOMIC

13. THE GKR HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ESTABLISH A SYSTEM FOR JOINTLY REVIEWING BUDGET RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES MONTH-BY-MONTH. THE SYSTEM IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF BEING IMPLEMENTED. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE MONTHLY REVIEW ARE TO MONITOR EXPENDITURES IN INCREASINGLY GREATER DETAIL, TRY TO ENFORCE A 12 BILLION LIMIT ON NATIONAL BANK BORROWINGS AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER EXCHANGE RATE OR RICE PRICE ADJUSTMENTS ARE NEEDED TO ENSURE ADEQUATE GKR REVENUES FOR BUDGET SUPPORT.

14. RICE STOCKS IN PHNOM PENH ON MARCH 31 TOTALLED 37,852

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ACTION EA-14

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P R 021150Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5626

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
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CGFMFPAC  
CGUSARSUPTHAI  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 PHNOM PENH 4811

METRIC TONS OR 58 DAYS SUPPLY AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF 650 M/T  
PER DAY. ACTUAL DISTRIBUTION FOR THE SEVEN-DAY PERIOD WAS  
607 M/T PER DAY. KOMPONG SOM HOLDS RICE RESERVES OF APPROXI-  
MATELY 12,597 M/T, AND IT IS NOW PLANNED TO BRING THE BULK  
OF THESE TO PHNOM PENH DURING THE NEXT EIGHT WEEKS, LEAVING  
A TWO-MONTH STOCK FOR THE MARITIME PROVINCES. NO MEKONG CONVOYS



ARRIVED DURING THE PAST WEEK DUE TO A CHANGE IN RESCHEDULING;  
THE NEXT CONVOY IS NOW DUE TO ARRIVE ON APRIL 4 WITH  
8,200 M/T OF RICE.

15. THE ONLY MAJOR MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES WAS IN THE KOMPNG  
SPEU AREA WHERE 2,000 FAMILIES REPORTEDLY HAVE MOVED FROM  
COMMUNIST AREAS TO GKR TERRITORY. NO REPORTS ON THE NUMBERS  
OF REFUGEES CAUSED BY THE OUDONG ACTION HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

#### MILITARY

16. THE GKR ENCLAVE AT OUDONG FELL ON MARCH 28 WITH APPARENTLY  
HEAVY LOSSES IN EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. SEVERAL THOUSAND  
ADDITIONAL REFUGEES HAD ENTERED THE ALREADY CROWDED AREA WHEN  
A 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE ROUND LANDED IN THE AMMUNITION STOCKS,  
DESTROYING PART OF THE DEFENSIVE PARAPET AND ALLOWING THE  
ENEMY TO ENTER. LOSSES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION WERE CON-  
SIDERABLE IN THE RESULTING FLIGHT FROM THE ENCLAVE AND MOST OF  
ITS OCCUPANTS HAVE YET TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR. THERE HAVE BEEN  
SEVERAL REPORTS OF KC ATROCITIES AGAINST MILITARY AND  
CIVILIANS CAPTURED THERE. THE EQUIVALENT OF FOUR FANK  
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BRIGADES ASSIGNED THE MISSION OF RETAKING OUDONG HAVE MADE  
LITTLE PROGRESS.

17. SIGNIFICANT KC PRESSURE AGAINST KAMPOT FORCED FANK TO  
GIVE UP GROUND TO THE WEST AND NORTH OF THIS COASTAL CITY.  
EXECUTION OF GKR PLANS TO AUGMENT THE FORCES AT KAMPOT  
HAS PROCEEDED SOMEWHAT SLOWLY.

18. ENEMY PRESSURE ON THE MEKONG EAST BANK OPPOSITE PHNOM  
PENH INCREASED AS ONE PARATROOPER COMPANY WAS FORCED TO  
ABANDON ITS POSITION. REINFORCEMENTS CONSISTING OF TWO  
BATTALIONS FROM THE 28TH BRIGADE WERE DISPATCHED TO  
RE-ESTABLISH THE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. ASIDE FROM SLIGHT  
PRESSURE ON A BASSAC RIVER ISLAND EIGHT KILOMETERS SOUTH  
OF THE CITY, THE REST OF THE CAPITAL'S PERIMETER WAS CALM.

19. ONE OF FANK'S FOUR DIVISIONS GOT A NEW COMMANDER THIS  
WEEK IN AN EFFORT TO REENERGIZE PHNOM PENH'S INTERVENTION  
FORCES. BG DENG LAYOM REPLACED BG UN KAUV AS COMMANDER OF  
THE SEVENTH DIVISION.

20. ROUTES 4 AND 5 REMAIN INTERDICTED. CONVOYS, WHICH ARE  
WELL PROTECTED, CONTINUE TO PLY THE MEKONG WITH ONLY MINOR  
ENEMY HARASSMENT.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT REFORM, CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, POLITICAL SITUATION, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PERSONNEL TRAVEL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PHNOM04811  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740073-0384  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740472/aaaacoe.tel  
**Line Count:** 491  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 9  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** KHMER REPORT - APRIL 2, 1974 GENERAL  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB, (CHENG HENG), (KHIEU SAMPHAN), (LON NOL), (LONG BORET), (SIRIK MATAK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005